

Message Text

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USIE-00 DRC-01 /088 W

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O R 251000Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8387

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 18471

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT 17-23 OCT 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: REPORTED INCIDENTS TOTALLED 761, REPRESENTING A RISE IN ALL REGIONS EXCEPT MR-1. THERE, THE MAJORITY WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE, AS GROUND COMBAT SUBSIDED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS AND REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL TO THE SOUTH, WITH GVN INITIATIVES IN WESTERN DISTRICTS ACCOUNTING FOR MOST OF THE ACTIVITY. IN MR-2, ACTIVITY REMAINS CENTERED IN BINH DINH AND IN THE NORTHERN PLATEAU, WHERE RVNAF UNITS CONTINUE THEIR METHODICAL PROGRESS TOWARD PLEI DJERENG. THERE WAS NO DISCERNABLE PATTERN TO THE FIGHTING IN MR-3, AS BOTH SIDES JOCKEY FOR TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. RVNAF CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS STATE OF READINESS, AND AGGRESSIVENESS IN PURSUIT OF THIS AIM IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN REPORTED INCIDENTS. MILITARY ACTIVITY AND CAUSALTIES INCREASED IN MR-4, WHERE THE NORTHERN DELTA BORE THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING. DINH TUONG AND KIEN HOA EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF NVA ACTIVITY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN CHAU DOC, RVNAF REOCCUPIED THE SUMMIT OF GIAI MOUNTAIN. THE FIRST THIRD OF THE IRANIAN ICCS DEL HAS ARRIVED AND THE GVN HAS MADE A \$2 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO ICCS BUDGET. THE ICCS CHAIRMAN HAS ADVISED PA&E TO CONTACT THE ICCS DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SECURE APPOINTMENTS WITH TPJMC REPS FOR RETURN OF ITS MISSING EMPLOYEES.

PART I: ICCS

1. THE FIRST THIRD OF THE IRANIAN ICCS DEL, INCLUDING THE CHIEF OF ITS MILITARY COMPONENT, M/G SOEDIFI, ARRIVED VIA CHARTERED AIRCRAFT OCT 24. A PORTION OF THIS CONTINGENT WILL DEPLOY TO REGIONAL SITES FOLLOWING A BRIEF ORIENTATIN IN SAIGON; THE BALANCE IS ASSIGNED TO ICCS HEADQUARTERS. A SECOND CONTINGENT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECTED IN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS. ROTATION OF THE POLISH DEL CONTINUES, WITH 64 ARRIVALS AND 75 DEPARTURES. ON OCT 23, THE GVN TRANSMITTED TO THE ICCS DIRECTOR GENERAL A CHECK FOR \$2 MILLION, AND REQUESTED THE ICCS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE DRV AND THE "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT."

2. ICCS CHAIRMAN ESZTERGALYOS ON OCT 24 RESPONDED TO EMB NOTES ON THE THREE MISSING PA&E EMPLOYEES, ENCLOSING A LETTER TO PA&E SUGGESTING THAT THE COMPANY CONTACT ICCS DIRECTOR GENERAL NUR OR HIS DESIGNATED REP TO ARRANGE FOR CALLS ON GVN AND PRG TPJMC REPS TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINED EMPLOYEES.

PART II: COMMUNIST CONTINUE THREATS OF "RETALIATION"

1. HANOI AND THE VIET-CONG CONTINUE HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS THREATENING "HARSH PUNISHMENT" FOR ALLEGED GVN BOMBING AND GROUND ASSAULTS IN AREAS CLAIMED BY THE COMMUNISTS. ON OCT 24 THE FONMIN OF THE SO-CALLED PRG CONDEMNED THE GVN'S "MASSIVE AIR RAIDS" IN BINH DUONG (VC THU DAU MOT) PROVINCE. THE SAME DAY, THE DRV FONMINISTRY SPOKESMAN CHARGED THAT THE GVN HAD NOT ONLY BOMBED BINH DUONG BUT THAT ITS RAIDS IN BINH DINH AND TAY NINH HAD "KILLED AND WOUNDED MANY CIVILIANS" IN WHAT THE SPOKESMAN CALLED "EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND HIGHLY CRIMINAL ACTS." TWO DAYS EARLIER THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE "PRG" DEL IN PARIS BLASTED PRES THIEU'S CALL FOR "PRE-EMPTIVE" STRIKES AGAINST COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS AND THREATENED "SEVERE PUNISHMENT" SHOULD THEY CONTINUE.

2. LOWER LEVEL COMMUNIST MEDIA ALSO CONTINUED THEIR THREATENING VITRIOL. A HANOI RADIO COMMENTARY ON OCT 23, REFERRING TO THE ON-GOING GVN OPERATION TO RECOVER THE LE MINH (PLEI D' JERENG) AREA, CLAIMED THAT THE "NIBBLING FORCES" HAD ALREADY SUSTAINED "HEAVY LOSSES" AND THREATENED THAT "IF THE THIEU CLIQUE AND HIS FORCES ARE NOT WAKENED REPEAT WAKENED BUT THESE COUNTERBLOWS" THE COMMUNISTS WILL INFLICT "EVEN HEAVIER AND MORE APPROPRIATE BLOWS...IF THEY ARE INTENT ON ATTACKING THE SOUTHERN ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE FIRST, THEY WILL DIE FIRST."

COMMUNIST FOCUS ON "US ROLE" IN CONTINUING STRUGGLE

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QM AN OCT 19 COMMENTARY IN HANOI'S ARMY NEWSPAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN ILLUSTRATES THE COMMUNISTS' INTENSIFIED INTEREST IN THE ALLEGED ROLE OF THE US IN THE POST-PARIS AGREEMENT STRUGGLE. THE PAPER CHARGED THAT THE US HAS LEFT BEHIND "20,000 DISGUISED MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF PACIFICATION ADVISERS ASSIGNED TO THE US CONSULATES IN DANANG, NHA TRANG, BIEN HOA AND CAN THO." IT CLAIMED THAT SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES US "ADVISERS" HAVE RELIED ON "DIFFERENT DISGUISES" TO REMAIN IN COMMAND OF GVN PACIFICATION EFFORTS DOWN TO THE LOCAL LEVEL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 18471

LIMDIS

PART III: MR - 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS, THERE WERE 124 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, MAKING A DAILY AVERAGE OF 18 AND A SLIGHT DECLINE FROM LAST WEEK'S TOTAL. GVN CASUALTIES: 89 KIA, 330 WIA; PRG/NVA; 172 KIA, 4 RETURNEES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,326 ROUNDS NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS AND 10,117 ROUNDS SOUTH, MAKING A TOTAL OF 11,443 OR AN INCREASE OF ABOUT

2,000 ROUNDS OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

A. THE TEMPO OF MILITARY ACTIVITY RECEDED AGAIN AFTER THE MOVES MADE BY THE AIRBORNE DIVISION IN THE CO BI AREA AND THE PRG/NVA AGAINST BACH MA DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE EFFORTS OF AIRBORNE TROOPS TO CONTINUE CLEARING VC/NVA UNITS FROM CO BI (NORTHWEST OF HUE) WERE MET WITH VERY HEAVY MORTAR FIRE AND STALLED. REGIONAL FORCE UNITS NOW HOLD AN OUTPOST ONE KILOMETER FROM THE BACH MA SUMMIT (ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS SOUTH-EAST OF HUE) AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT RE-SUPPLY OF AN ESTIMATED PLATOON-SIZED ENEMY UNIT HOLDING THE SUMMIT. VC/NVA GROUND ATTACKS CAPTURED TWO OUTPOSTS OF THE 3D REGIMENT, 1ST ARVN DIVISION, WHILE ONE ARVN COMPANY WAS RELIEVING ANOTHER (ABOUT EIGHTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF HUE).

B. ON OCTOBER 23, DETONATION OF A MINE INTERRUPTED RAILROAD SERVICE BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE WOUNDING ONE CHILD AND DESTROYING A LOCOMOTIVE AND THREE FREIGHT CARS. (REF DANANG 1176).

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

A. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. THE MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS REPORTED WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE. PGWLQV#
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ODQDT#

IN, ON OCTOBER 20, ELEMENTS OF THE 2D REGIMENT, 3D ARVN DIVISION, RETOOK HILL 378 IN WESTERN THANG BINH DISTRICT (ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS WEST NORTHWEST OF TAM KY). SEVERAL BATTALIONS OF THE 711TH NVA DIVISION REMAIN ACTIVE IN THIS AREA AND THE HILL WAS ONE OF SEVERAL HIGH GROUND POSITIONS WHICH UNITS OF THIS DIVISION HAVE USED TO ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE WESTERN THANG BINH AND SOUTHWESTERN QUE SON DISTRICT (QUANG NAM PROVINCE).

B. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE THIS WEEK, THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF GVN FORCES HAS BEEN TO RETAKE HILL 252 (ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY ON THE VE RIVER). THE HILL COMMANDS A SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN NGHIA HANH AND MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN AND OVERLOOKS AN RTV SITE. BOTH RANGER AND ARVN UNITS, THE LATTER IN COMPANY SIZE, HAVE BEEN COMMITTED SINCE LAST WEEK BUT THE HILL REMAINS IN VC/NVA CONTROL.

C. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORT THAT THE VC ARE HAVING SERIOUS DIFFICULTY PROCURING FOODSTUFFS IN WESTERN SON TINH AND BINH SON DISTRICTS OF QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. THE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS

ON WHICH THE INTELLIGENCE IS BASED REPORTEDLY INDICATE THE PROCUREMENT PROBLEM IS CAUSED BY THE ACTIVITY OF GVN FORCES IN THESE AREAS.

4. ICCS:

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE ICCS, REGION II, CHANGED HANDS OCTOBER 23. LTC MARIAN GALAZKA, HEAD OF THE POLISH DELEGATION, LEFT DANANG ON NORMAL ROTATION AND WAS REPLACED BY COL ZDZISLAW WROBEL.

5. ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE, GALAZKA TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL FRANKLY THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO BE RETURNING HOME TO HIS FAMILY, BUT WAS SADDENED BECAUSE HE FELT THAT HE HAD BEEN A FAILURE IN HIS ICCS ROLE. GALAZKA SAID THAT THE ICCS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PERFORM ITS ASSIGNED FUNCTION; THAT IT HAD BEEN PLAGUED BY TOO MANY REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS, SUCH AS TO DETERMINE WHO HAD SET OFF WHICH MINE, WHICH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH GROUP AS THE ICCS TO DO. GALAZKA SAID HE PERSONALLY
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FELT THAT THE ICCS, RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ON INVESTIGATIONS OF SPECIFIC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GET ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIET NAM DISPUTE TO OBSERVE ALL ASPECTS OF THE PARIS ACCORDS, POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY.

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 SAIGON 18471

LIMDIS

PART IV: MR-2

1. OVERALL SITUATION: THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INCREASED FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF 141 BACK NEAR THE LEVELS PREVALENT IN MOST OF SEPTEMBER. ACTION WAS CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH (47), PLEIKU (39) AND KONTUM (23). RVNAF KIA/WIA WERE 59/202, AND 7 LISTED MISSING, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN LAST WEEK. COMMUNIST KIA INCREASED FROM 181 TO 218, AND 2 LISTED AS CAPTURED. THE RVNAF CAPTURED 62 SMALL ARMS AND 10 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, WHILE REPORTING 19 SMALL ARMS AND 1 CREW-SERVED WEAPON LOST. AIR STRIKES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 122 TO 431 (WPR IN PLEIKU, 107 IN KONTUM, 100 IN BINH DINH, 14 IN QUANG DUC, AND 6 IN BINH THUAN).

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: GVN ATTENTION CONTINUED TO FOCUS MAINLY ON PLEIKU. ON OCTOBER 20 IN PLEIKU, GEN TOAN MET WITH MOST OF THE II CORPS STAFF IN ORDER TO CONSIDER RVNAF EFFORTS TO RETAKE PLEI DJERENG AND RELATED ENEMY DEPLOYMENTS. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT ARVN FORCES ON THEIR WAY TO PLEI DJERENG PASSED NEAR AN ENEMY CONCENTRATION ASTRIDE HIGHWAY 509 AT APPROXIMATELY ZA 018.422, AND ARVN G-2 BELIEVES THESE TROOPS WILL SEEK TO STOP THE ARVN THRUST, EITHER BY EFFECT OF THEIR REAR, OR BY MOVING EAST TOWARD PLEIKU, THUS FORCING THE ARVN TO RETURN TO DEFEND THE CITY. MEANWHILE, A NEW COMMUNIST UNIT, THE 297TH ARMORED BN OF THE 203RD REGT, HAS BEEN REPORTED EAST

OF DUC CO ALONG QL 14 (VICINITY YA 910.267). SEVERAL 122MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT THE PLEIKU AIR BASE ON OCT 12 AND 18, CAUSING MINIMAL DAMAGE. SECTOR FORCES CONTINUE TO BE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY TO THE NORTH-EAST OF KONTUM CITY IN THE DAK BLA VALLEY. RVNAF OPERATIONS TO DISLODGE THE ENEMY FROM HILL 727 SOUTH-WEST OF KONTUM CITY ARE CONTINUING, BUT WILL GET A NEW CAST OF ANTAGONISTS. RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT THE DEFENDING ENEMY 95B RGT WILL BE REPLACED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 66TH NVA REGT. IN ITS TURN, ARVN HAS BEEN PULLING ITS 53RD RGT OUT OF THE HILL 727 AREA FOR REST AND REFIT-
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TING LEAVING ELEMENTS OF THE 45TH REGT TO CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE. RVNAF HAVE YET TO REALIZE GENERAL TOAN'S GOAL OF PUSHING THE ENEMY BACK ACROSS THE POKO/YA KRONG BOLAH RIVER AND, DESPITE THE RVNAF'S VICTORY IN RETAKING TRUNG NGHIA, THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO DEMAND THE ATTENTION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF RVNAF TROOPS IN KONTUM/PLEIKU.

3. QUANG DUC: THE OPERATION IN THE VICINITY OF BU PRANG (SEE PREVIOUS SITREP) IS MOVING SLOWLY, WITH LOW RVNAF CASUALTIES AND UNKNOWN EFFECT ON THE TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 271ST NVA REGT LOCATED IN THE AREA. THE OPERATION IS SAID TO BE AIMED EXCLUSIVELY AT REOPENING A 4-5 KM STRETCH OF QL 14 WHICH PARALLELS THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, BUT THE AO ON THE SECTOR BRIEFING MAP INCLUDES THE SECTION OF HIGHWAY 309 NEAR THE BORDER AS WELL. COLONEL NGHYEN TRONG LUAT, WHO HAS OVER-ALL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION, WAS RELUCTANT TO SAY WHETHER THE OPERATION WOULD DISRUPT THE COMMUNIST LOC, BUT COMMENTED THAT THE AREA THROUGH WHICH THE ROAD PASSES CAME UNDER ENEMY CONTROL AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE (SEE NHA TRANG A-111 OF SEPT 7 FOR BACKGROUND). THE PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES THE NVA MAY HAVE COMPLETED ROAD RECONSTRUCTION ALL THE WAY TO MR III, BUT CONSIDERS IT UNWISE TO SEND LONG-RANGE PATROLS TO VERIFY THIS. THE PORTION OF THE ROAD VISABLE FROM THE AIR IS REPORTEDLY COMPLETE AND IN GOOD REPAIR.

4. OTHER AREAS: TWO COMMUNIST GROUND ASSAULTS IN BINH DINH ON THE 23RD NETTED THE LARGEST CASUALTIES OF ANY INCIDENTS THIS WEEK: A TOTAL OF 13KIA AND QU WIA FOR THE RVNAF, AND 51 COMMUNIST KIA. THE COMMUNISTS MORTARED THE DALAT IN-TOWN AIRFIELD ON OCT 21 CAUSING NO DAMAGE. 45 OF THE 46 RF/PF SENT FROM BINH THUAN TO KONTUM HAVE ALREADY DESERTED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PRACTICE, THESE REPLACEMENTS WERE ASSIGNED TO KONTUM AS A RESULT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A VNAF HELICOPTER FLYING FROM PHAN THIET TO BAO LOC ON OCT 18 WENT DOWN WITH 14 RVNAF PERSONNEL ABOARD, THE CRASH SITE HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 SAIGON 18471

LIMDIS

PART V: MR-3

1. THE WAR HEATED UP IN MR-3 PAST WEEK TO HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE MID-AUGUST. THERE WERE 153 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 129 IN PREVIOUS PERIOD. THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IS MAINLY DUE TO RECENT GVN AGGRESSIVENESS IN PURSUING THE ENEMY, FORCING THEM BACK TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AROUND THEIR ENCLAVES. MINES/BOOBY TRAPS ACCOUNTED FOR LARGE PERCENTAGE OF INCIDENTS AND WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN MOST FRIENDLY CASUALTIES. CONTACTS WERE HEAVIEST IN BINH DUONG (43), LONG AN (22), TAY NINH (18) AND LONG KHANH (16). THERE WAS NO DISCERNIBLE PATTERN TO THE FIGHTING WITH BOTH SIDES JOCKEYING FOR TACTICAL ADVANTAGES. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 15 KIA, 127 WIA, 3 MIA; ENEMY LOSSES WERE 77 KIA, 1 CIA. THIS RATIO IS MOST FAVORABLE IN RECENT MONTHS. COMMUNISTS FIRED 310 ROUNDS ARTILLERY COMPARED WITH 470 LAST WEEK. NUMBER OF RALLIERS REMAINED HIGH AT 15. OF INTEREST IS THAT 9 OF 15 RALLIERS WERE 12 TO 15 YEARS OLD AND MOST BROUGHT WEAPONS WITH THEM.

2. THOUGH MR-3 OFFICIALS HAVE REVISED THEIR ESTIMATES OF THE IMMINENCE OF AN ENEMY OFFENSIVE, ARVN AND THE TERRITORIAL FORCES HAVE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE THEIR STATE OF PREPAREDNESS. THERE WERE UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER FRIENDLY PATROL OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT MR-3, AS WELL AS LONG RANGE RECON GROUPS OPERATING BEHIND ENEMY LINES. THESE MISSIONS ARE PROVING THEIR WORTH THROUGH DISCOVERY HITHERTO UNKNOWN NVA/VC BASE CAMPS, SUPPLY AREAS, CAMOUFLAGED HALF TRACK VEHICLES AND PRG POPULATION CENTERS. ANOTHER SIGN OF STEPPED UP AGGRESSIVENESS ON FRIENDLY SIDE IS EXPANSION OF ROME PLOWING THROUGHOUT REGION. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE ARVN ENGINEERS MOVED INTO AREA SOUTH OF BEN/CAT ON HIGHWAY 13 EARLY OCX48. THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONSTANT HARASSMENT BY MORTAR/GROUND FIRE AND APPROXIMATELY 12 BULLDOZERS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY MINE DETONATIONS.

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3. ENEMY FOX HOLES WERE DISCOVERED FEW DAYS AGO NEAR JUNCTION ROUTES 1 AND 20 IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. SPORADIC MORTARING AND GROUND ASSAULTS ON RF TROOPS IN WESTERN PORTION XUAN LOC DISTRICT ALSO REPORTED. MR-3 OFFICIALS BELIEVE NVA 165TH REGIMENT RECENTLY MOVED TO VICINITY KIEM TAN DISTRICT AND COULD BE PLANNING ATTACK LONG BINH (WHERE SAPPERS DISCOVERED OUTSIDE PERIMETER LAST WEEK) AND INTO BIEN HOA. IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE ROUTE 23 HAS RECIEVED INTERMITTENT MORTARING IN PAST TWO WEEKS AND ENEMY TROOPS WERE REPORTEDLY DIGGING ENTRENCHMENTS WITHIN SEVERAL KILOMETERS OF ROUTE 15 IN THE PHY MY AREA. THERE WERE TWO RAIL INTERDICTIONS ON THE LINE BETWEEN BIEN HOA AND LONG KHANH BOTH OF WHICH CAUSED EXTENSIVE EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.

4. NVA/VC HAVE CONTINUED TO EXERT HEAVY PRESSURE ON PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD, THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF RESUPPLY FOR PHUOC

LONG PROVINCE. AIRSTRIKES FOLLOWING ENEMY ROCKET AND MORTAR ATTACKS HAVE PRODUCED SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, BUT FREQUENCY OF SHELLING ON GVN AIRCRAFT CONTINUES TO RISE. FOUR VNAF HELICOPTERS WERE HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE DURING COURSE OF WEEK.

5. ARMOR AGAIN ENTERED THE PICTURE IN MR-3. TWO COMMUNIST TANKS (NFI) WERE OBSERVED NEAR CHON THANH, BINH LONG PROVINCE, BY A VNAF CARGO PLANE; TWO MORE TANKS WERE HEARD BY 36TH RANGERS BN MOVING IN NE DIRECTION NEAR AN LOC; FINALLY, A CONSISTENTLY RELIABLE AGENT SAID HE OBSERVED THIRTY-SIX ENEMY TANKS SECRETED ALONG TL-4 NEAR PREK KLOK IN NORTHERN TAY NINH.

6. OVER PERIOD LAST 30 DAYS VNAF HAS FLOWN SERIES SORTIES AGAINST SUSPECTED SA 7 MISSILE EMPLACEMENTS SURROUNDING NUI BA DEN (BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN), TAY NINH. OVER WEEKEND 40 MORE SORTIES WERE FLOWN, RESULTING IN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. PROVINCE CHIEF CLAIMS BOMBING HAS ENABLED RESUPPLY OF RF ON MOUNTAIN WITHOUT ENEMY INTERFERENCE. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE RECON TEAMS DISCOVERED LUCRATIVE TARGET IN TRANG BANG DISTRICT WHICH WAS BOMBED OCTOBER 21 WITH 25 VC REPORTEDLY KILLED, 75 HOUSES DAMAGED. INDODEL, ICCS REGION V, REPORTED 3 ENEMY 107MM ROCKETS RECENTLY LANDED WITHIN 200 METERS OF COMPOUND AT CU CHI. EVEN THOUGH POLDEL
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AND HUNGDEL WERE PRESENT, THEY WERE UNWILLING ADMIT ROCKETS WERE FIRED BY COMMUNISTS. THEIR EXPLANATION WAS THAT ROCKETS COULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ARVN WHO MISCALCULATED RANGE WHEN FIRING THEM.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02

PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SPC-01 DPW-01 AID-10 OMB-01

USIE-00 DRC-01 /088 W

----- 073761

O R 251000Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8391

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 SAIGON 18471

LIMDIS

PART VI: MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. MR 4 REPORTED A TOTAL OF 343 VC/NVA - INITIATED INCIDENTS, AS OPPOSED TO 242 THE PRECEDING WEEK. GVN CASUALTIES DOUBLED: 246 KILLED (COMPARED WITH 115) AND 897 WOUNDED (COMPARED WITH 500). THE GVN ALSO LOST 57 TROOPS MISSING IN ACTION, ONE CREW-SERVED WEAPON, AND 136 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. VC/NVA LOSSES WERE ALSO UP: 760 KILLED, 19 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS, AND 30 CREW-SERVED AND 189 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) RANGERS TAKE NUOI GIAI: ARVN RANGERS SCORED A NOTABLE IF NOT YET COMPLETE SUCCESS ON GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE. AFTER ABOUT TWO MONTHS OF HARD FIGHTING AND HEAVY CASUALTIES, RANGERS TOOK CONTROL OF HILL 549, THE MOUNTAIN'S HIGHEST POINT. IN AN EARLY MORNING ENGAGEMENT ON OCTOBER 20 THE GVN KILLED 52 ENEMY, SUFFERING ONLY 7 WIA THEMSELVES. THERE IS NOW NO ARMED

RESISTANCE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS AS MANY AS A FEW HUNDRED VC/NVA ARE STILL HIDING IN CAVES IN SMALL GROUPS ON THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE MOUNTAIN. ACCORDING TO A GROUP OF NEWLY-CAPTURED INFILTRATORS, VC/NVA ON THE MOUNTAIN WERE DESPERATELY SHORT OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION IN THE LAST DAYS. SOME OF THE VC/NVA HAVE SUCCEEDED IN EXFILTRATING TO EASTERN KIEN LUONG DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG, WHERE, IT IS REPORTED, PROVINCIAL GVN FORCES ARE REACTING STRONGLY.

(C) 512 VC BATTALION BADLY BEATEN: GVN TROOPS SCORED A SECOND SUCCESS IN CHAU DOC OCTOBER 9 IN AN OPERATION AT THE NORTHERN EDGE OF AN PHU DISTRICT ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER (WT103116). A RALLIER REPORTED THAT THE ACTION LEFT THE 512 VC LOCAL FORCE BATTALION INOPERATIVE. HEAVY CASUALTIES, HE SAID, REDUCED THE UNIT TO SOME 40 PERCENT OF ITS EARLIER STRENGTH. THE BATTALION COMMANDER WAS AMONG THE DEAD.

(D) DINH TUONG: STRENGTHENED VC/NVA CLOSER TO QL4: DESPITE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHAU DOC SUCCESSES, THE DELTA'S PRINCIPLE ARENA OF ACTION WAS DINH TUONG PROVINCE, WHERE A MAJOR INCREASE IN VC/NVA ACTIVITY ACCOUNTED FOR HALF OF ALL MR 4 REPORTED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 29 GROUND ATTACKS (3 LAST WEEK), AND 74 ATTACKS BY FIRE (11 LAST WEEK). THIS IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. GVN KILLED IN THE PROVINCE INCREASED DRAMATICALLY TO 52 (7 LAST WEEK), AND WOUNDED TO 177 (62 LAST WEEK). FOLLOWING A PATTERN BEGUN A WEEK EARLIER, VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN THE CENTER OF THE PROVINCE MOVED CLOSER TO ROUTE 4: ON OCTOBER 22-23 ALONE, THERE WERE TWELVE VC/NVA GROUND ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS NEAR THE HIGHWAY. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN NO DISRUPTIONS TO ROUTE 4 CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. A MINE WAS ALSO FOUND ON ROUTE 29, JUST NORTH OF CAI LAY TOWN - THE THIRD MINING INCIDENT ON THE ROAD IN TWO MONTHS. ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE WAS CONCENTRATED IN SAM GIANG AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS. SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO MR 4, ABOUT 1100 NEW NVA TROOPS HAVE INFILTRATED INTO DINH TUONG.

(E) KIEN HOA: NEW ARVN INCURSION: AS IN DINH TUONG, VC/NVA ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING KIEN HOA REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL - 108 INCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK - SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IN RESPONSE, THE 2ND BATTALION, 10TH REGIMENT, 7TH DIVISION WAS AIRLIFTED INTO THE PROVINCE ON OCTOBER 23, BUT ITS OBJECTIVES ARE NOT YET CLEAR.

(F) CHUONG THIEN: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR, THERE WAS AN AMBUSH ON ROUTE 31 (VI THANH - CAN THO), SOME 8 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF VI THANH IN THE EARLY EVENING, WHEN A PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE JEEP WAS HIT BY AN M79 ROUND. TWO CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED. THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AT THE SAME LOCATION, AN ARVN GASOLINE TRUCK RECEIVED SNIPER FIRE, BUT WITHOUT CASUALTIES. THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION KILLED 15 NVA TROOPS IN A DAYLIGHT OPERATION ON OCTOBER 17 IN HOA THUAN VILLAGE. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE SAME ARVN UNIT KILLED A HIGHER (BUT UNKNOWN) NUMBER OF NVA, WHILE ITSELF SUFFERING TWO KILLED AND 13 WOUNDED.

(G) SHELLINGS OF DISTRICT TOWNS: LONG MY DISTRICT TOWN IN CHUONG THIEN WAS SHELLED THREE TIMES DURING THE WEEK. THE VC ALSO SHELLED BINH MINH DISTRICT TOWN IN VINH LONG, ACROSS THE BASSAC RIVER FROM CAN THO, KILLING TWO CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING TWO. MO CAY DISTRICT TOWN IN KIEN HOA WAS SHELLED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE WEEK. IN ONE ATTACK, WHOSE PROBABLE TARGET WAS AN ARTILLERY POSITION AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN, 13 SCHOOL
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CHILDREN NEARBY WERE WOUNDED. THE ICCS INVESTIGATED THIS INCIDENT. SAM GIANG DISTRICT TOWN IN DINH TUONG RECEIVED MORTARS ON THREE OCCASIONS, ON ONE OF WHICH TEN CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

(H) HELICOPTER ATTACKED: AN AIR AMERICA HELICOPTER OVERFLYING CAU KE DISTRICT, VINH BINH PROVINCE, RECEIVED GROUND FIRE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 300 - 400 METERS ON OCTOBER 19. THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

(J) OUTPOSTS UNDER ATTACK: THREE OUTPOSTS WERE OVERRUN IN MY DA VILLAGE, KIEN PHONG DURING THE WEEK, BRINGING TO SIX THE NUMBER OVERRUN THERE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH. (ACTIVITY IN KIEN PHONG GENERALLY WAS HIGH, WITH 106 INCIDENTS.) IN PHONG DINH, AN OB IN PHUONG HIEP DISTRICT WAS OVERRUN ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 20-21, RESULTING IN TWO PF AND ONE DEPENDENT KILLED, BUT THE POST WAS REOCCUPIED IN THE MORNING.

2. ICCS/JMC. EFFORTS TO SECURE HUNGARIAN OR POLISH ICCS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF US CONTRACT EMPLOYEE HOMER ELM AND TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ABDUCTED BY THE VIET CONG IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE OCTOBER 6, HAVE SO FAR YIELDED NO RESULTS.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES: COLONEL NGUYEN VAN MINH, MR 4 INSPECTOR GENERAL SINCE APRIL 1972, OCTOBER 18 REPLACED COLONEL TRAN THANH NHIEU AS KIEN PHONG PROVINCE CHIEF. NHIEU'S REMOVAL HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF RUMOR FOR SOME WEEKS. SAIGON PAPERS RECENTLY LINKED HIS IMPENDING DEMISE TO FAILURE TO ACHIEVE HIS RICE QUOTA. A HIGH-LEVEL MR 4 OFFICER, HOWEVER, TOLD US RICE WAS NOT THE REASON FOR HIS DEPARTURE.
MARTIN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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DANANG
PARIS

JEC PARIS UNN
JAKARTA
LONDON
MOSCOW
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PHNOM PENH
TEHRAN
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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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